



News Release

WISCONSIN ARMY AND AIR NATIONAL GUARD

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Homeland Defense Update

More than 6,400 National Guard soldiers and airmen still available in Wisconsin

Although mobilizations scheduled in August and this week's mobilization of 70 soldiers from the 32nd Infantry Brigade headquarters slightly reduces the number of Wisconsin National Guard soldiers and airmen that will be available in Wisconsin, the Wisconsin Guard still has more than 6,400 personnel available in Wisconsin in the event of state emergencies or to support homeland defense or security missions.

The Wisconsin Guard has been actively involved in the global war on terror since the morning of September 11, 2001. Since that time, nearly 70 percent of the Guard's soldiers and airmen have served, or will serve soon, on active duty either at home or overseas. Most of these 6,600-plus soldiers and airmen have completed their active duty missions and are back in Wisconsin serving with their Army and Air National Guard units.

Wisconsin's available resources include the National Guard's 500-soldier Rapid Reaction Force, which is capable of responding on short notice anywhere in Wisconsin with an initial force of 125 soldiers, and 375 additional soldiers available within 24 hours to sustain operations as long as required. This mission was transferred to 1st Battalion, 121st Field Artillery late last year in anticipation of a possible active duty call for 2nd Battalion, 127th Infantry. The infantry battalion was ordered to active duty earlier in June.

Of the Wisconsin National Guard's 9,450 current members, there are currently about 1,980 serving on active duty. Among those, approximately 1,080 are currently deployed overseas. Seventy Wisconsin Army National Guard soldiers reported on active duty today, and about 1,020 more are scheduled to report in August. Mobilization orders have not been received for other Army National Guard soldiers from Wisconsin who remain on alert, but are available and fully capable of responding to homeland security or defense missions anywhere in the state.

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